



Judy Wilson, director of Rainbow Rescue.

Female caregivers target boys going through puberty

...lots of laws, no enforcement — Judy Wilson, Rainbow Rescue

SHALIZA HASSANALI

The Children's Authority says mothers are the main offenders in cases of child abuse and neglect, but according to director of Rainbow Rescue Judy Wilson caregivers (both male and female) are just as guilty of verbal, physical and sexual abuse against children in homes.

Managing a home for 17 years, Wilson said she had to fire several female caregivers for verbally abusing some of her vulnerable boys.

"Let us deny the fact that children are abused in homes that are supposed to protect and care for them," said

"Some caregivers, mostly the women would target boys who go through puberty. This is a time in the boy's life where their hormones are raging and would look at explicit photographs and be tempted to try new things as their body changes."

would go a step further by hitting the child, Wilson said.

There are also caregivers who are sexual predators, Wilson said.

"They would look for their weakest victims. Male caregivers would sometimes target homes like ours because the boys are vulnerable. Female caregivers also do the same thing in homes for girls."

"Some caregivers, mostly the women would target boys who go through puberty. This is a time in the boy's life where their hormones are raging and would look at explicit photographs and be tempted to try new things as their body changes."

In this stage of a boy's life, Wilson said, she would have to pay particular attention to her caregivers.

"From the minute I see any of my caregiver trying to be too nice, friendly, close or concerned of a boy I start to monitor her.

"In my case, I thought I would be safe with women working in the home," she said. Wilson said she wants to retire but has not found a trustworthy person to replace her.

Increase in sexually abused boys

Wilson also said she believes there was an increase in sexually abused boys. Though police statistics showed that 96.9 per cent of sexual offences were committed against girls, with the remaining 3.1 per cent being boys, Wilson said she believes this figure was much higher.

"I think it's more in the region of 30 per cent, while the girls are closer to 70 per cent.

• Continues on Page A16

Wilson. Wilson made the comment two days after the director at the Children's Authority Sharifa Ali-Abdullah revealed that mothers topped the list of offenders against children.

Ali-Abdullah said the information was determined by the calls received in the last two weeks.

Wilson said while Ali-Abdullah's revelation bears merit, caregivers are also guilty of ill-treating and taking advantage of children in homes that should keep them from harm.

"You know how many people (caregivers) I had to fire over the years because they abused the children. They would verbally abuse the children and say things that are inappropriate and hurtful.

"When the children react, they behave as if they are the victims," Wilson said.

Boys who are homeless, poverty victims, and those who come from broken families are taken into Rainbow Rescue.

She said the majority of caregivers lacked training and are unable to handle children who are disrespectful or defiant.

From verbal abuse, the caregiver

WE BEAT on
ANGOSTURA
RUM STREET

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME	ADMISSION
Sunday 7th June	WeFreat	Treat for children (12 & Under)	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Free
Tuesday 9th June	YouthBeat Concert	"Join A Club Not A Gang" Hosted by Police Officer Derrick Sharbodie, MOM & The St. James Police Youth Club Venue: St. James Amphitheatre	7:30 p.m.	Free
Wednesday 10th June	WeBeat Football Match	Venue: St. James Police Academy Grounds Western Main Road, St. James	4:30 p.m.	Free
Wednesday 10th June	ARTBeat	Art & Craft Entertainment by St. James Tripolians Venue: St. James Amphitheatre	6:00 p.m.	Free
Thursday 11th June	WeRiddims	Venue: St. James Amphitheatre	7:00 p.m.	Free
Friday 12th June	WeKalso Tribute to Black Stalin	Relator, Steve Sealy, Mr. Shak, Ras Kommand, Oscar B, Explainer, Baron, Shadow Backed by Pelham Goddard & Roots MCs Nikki & Penny Venue: St. James Amphitheatre	8:00 p.m.	\$150.
Saturday 13th June	Mannie Doolie 5K Fun Race	Venue: St. James Amphitheatre	7:00 a.m.	Registration before the race
Saturday 13th June	Steelband Parade Sponsored by The Hon. Prime Minister & Office of the PM	17 Steel Orchestras, Rhythm Section, Traditional Mas Characters (NCBA) Venue: Western Main Road, St. James	7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	Free
Sunday 14th June	We Cruise	Venue: Treasure Queen, Pier 2, Chaguaramas Boarding 3:00 p.m. • Selling 4:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	\$150.

Tickets on sale at Crosby's St. James, Cleve's & at the venue on the days of the events.

Career Opportunities

A leading super market chain is looking for persons to fill the following position

CASHIERS

Must be 20 years or older
Cashing experience will be an asset
Starting rate of \$17.00 per hour
Must be willing to work on a shift basis

Added Benefit

Staff on the closing shift and live within a 1 mile radius will be dropped straight home

Please bring with you the following:

- Passport size photo
- Utility bill
- One form of identification

Call Mondays through Fridays 10:00am-4:00pm for an interview

342-9483 or 352-2172

0607048